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PAYING PENSIONS.**The Methods Adopted By Some Foreign Countries.**

The most original feature in the current annual report of Commissioner Black is its description of the pension systems of foreign countries. The facts for this purpose, says a Washington special to the New York Sun, were obtained in response to requests made by him to American Ministers and Consuls-General in various lands, and General Black says that "the most courteous consideration has been paid to the requests in every instance save in the one addressed to the Minister at the Court of St. James."

Turning to the individual foreign systems, in the French each pension for any grade is observed to contain what is called a maximum and a minimum figure:

"For instance, that of a private soldier has a minimum of 600 and a maximum of 750 francs. The minimum pension is gained by the length of service above stated, and for each additional year of service the pensioner is entitled to an addition of one-twentieth of the difference between the minimum and maximum until the maximum is attained. An applicant who is entitled to less than the maximum service pension is allowed an addition for active campaign service, graded according to the nature of his service in the campaigns in which he served."

This is practically only analogous to our longevity pay system, which accrues to the benefit of those who go on the retired list.

The German system is founded on the law of 1871, and its general basis is laid down at the outset of that law:

"Every officer and military surgeon holding the rank of officer who draws his pay from the army appropriations, receives a life pension if, after a period of service of at least ten years, he has become incapacitated for active service, and is discharged for that reason."

"If the incapacity is caused by a wound or other injury received in the service, without the fault of the person thus injured, he will be entitled to a pension even after a shorter term of service than ten years."

The length of service becomes a ground for a higher rate of pension, as in the French system.

Some of the rates of pension in Spain are furnished by Commissioner Black:

"If by reason of wound or other accident of war a soldier loses his sight or the entire use of a limb he receives, if Colonel, 32,000 reals (\$1,600); if Lieutenant-Colonel, 25,000 reals (\$1,250); if Major, 22,000 reals (\$1,100); if a Captain, 15,000 reals (\$750); if a Lieutenant, 8,000 reals (\$400); if a sub-Lieutenant, 6,000 reals (\$300). The real in our money is worth about five cents. After twenty years of service a Sergeant receives per month \$6; after twenty-five years of service \$7.50; after thirty-five years of service, \$8. A Sergeant entirely disabled by accidental injuries received in the service shall receive the regular retired rate of pension per month, from \$2.25 to \$6.75; corporals and privates of all branches of the service receive as service pensions after twenty years of service, or in cases of total disability, from \$2.25 to \$7.50 per month."

The Turkish and Italian systems present no great elements of novelty, but the Russian has a peculiar feature:

"The pension system in Russia seems to be rather in the nature of a mutual insurance company operation. The fund was established in 1859 by a donation from the imperial treasury of 7,500,000 rubles. All the beneficiaries legal and possible of this fund were from thenceforth assessed 6 per cent. per annum on the amounts of their salaries until the date of the first payment of pension, which began about the year 1895. The fund had then increased to 18,000,000 rubles. In 1899 the principle of the fund reached the sum of 68,000,000 rubles. The number of beneficiaries is very small."

A WATERSPOUT'S WORK.**Two Towns in Mexico Nearly Swept Away.**

A despatch from New Laredo, gives the details of great destruction of property in Guerrero and Mier, Mexico, near the Rio Grande, by the overflowing of two rivers. In Mier, which built on the banks of the River Mier, 200 houses were destroyed and many were completely washed away. The town of Guerrero, which is situated on the banks of the Salado River, is inundated, and about fifty houses were either completely washed away or damaged. Both these rivers rise in the Lampasas Mountains, and were swollen by a great waterspout, which fell on Friday, and did much damage to the Mexican National Railroad.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

CLAUS SPECKELS, the San Francisco sugar king, is said to be worth over thirty millions.

JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG is collecting material for a history of the civil life of General Grant.

THE aged Baroness Burdett-Coutts and her young American husband are coming to America.

THE mad King of Bavaria is learning to make himself useful. He passes his days in parsing potatoes.

KING HUMBERT of Italy, is only forty-three years old, yet his hair, long since gray, is now nearly white.

GENERAL LONGSTREET says he expects "both sides to pitch in to him" when his book on the war is published.

HENRY GEORGE, the land and labor agitator, was fined \$100 in New York recently for disregarding the notice to serve as a juror.

Two of Blaine's sons, Walker and Emmons, are citizens of Chicago. Both live at the Union Club in that city. One is a lawyer and the other is a railroad.

THE richest man in Vermont is Colonel Estey, of Brattleboro. He is worth at the present moment \$2,500,000, all made in trade. He never speculated a dollar in any of the pet stocks or bonds.

THE oldest man in Indiana is Samuel Morrison of Indianapolis. He was born in 1788 in that State, and his faculties are clear and strong. He is chiefly occupied with reading and writing in the field of local history.

SINCE the recent death of ex-Senator Ciley, of New Hampshire, the oldest surviving Senator is Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1799. After him come Jefferson Davis, born in 1808, and Hannibal Hamlin, born in 1809.

MRS. RACHEL STILLWAGON, of Flushing, claims to be the oldest woman on Long Island. She has just celebrated her 103rd birthday surrounded by descendants, to even the fifth generation. Three-quarters of a century ago the fame of Mrs. Stillwagon's beauty extended as far South as Baltimore.

JACOB SHARP DOOMED.**An Adverse Decision Against the "Arch Boodler."****Judge Barrett Unanimously Upheld by the Higher Court.**

The General Term of the Supreme Court at New York on Monday handed down its decision that Jacob Sharp, ex-President of the Broadway Surface Car Company, had been rightly convicted of bribing the "Boodler" Aldermen, and refused to grant the prisoner a new trial. Judge Barrett's rulings are upheld on every point.

It was just 2 o'clock, says a New York paper, when Judges Van Brunt, Brady and Bartlett walked slowly into the Court-room. Judge Daniels alone was absent. The reconvening of the Court was a great surprise. Only the reporters and clerk were present. There was not a member of the District-Attorney's office nor any of the defendant's counsel present. Like wildfire, however, the news spread that the decision had been rendered. There was a skurrying for seats. The Clerk mumbled something, and then Judge Van Brunt, as Presiding Justice, read the decision. Intense silence reigned until he had finished. He said:

"The Court, after a careful examination of the voluminous record presented in the case of the People against Jacob Sharp, and of the question raised upon the appeal, have unanimously come to the conclusion that no error prejudicial to the defendant appears therein, and that the jury was justified in the verdict it arrived at. The order to be entered herein upon the appeal and the motions made prior to the argument will be settled on Thursday morning before the presiding Justice."

This is the ultimatum of the Supreme Court, General Term—Jacob Sharp must go to Sing Sing for four years and pay a fine of \$5,000 to the State for bribery.

Opinion is written by Judge Daniels and covers 120 pages of manuscript. Judge Van Brunt covers thirty-six pages, and is a consideration of the four opinions. Judge Brady's nine pages and Judge Bartlett's merely concur. This is the first time for a number of years that four Supreme Judges have sat together in General Term. Generally there are only three. The last time that such a thing is remembered was when Judge Davies and Feabody disputed the election of each other, and pending a decision both sat together in General Term.

The news of the decision was received throughout the city with every sign of approval.

"Thirteen comes up again," said an old citizen. "There were thirteen boodler Aldermen, September 15 was the first day of the argument for an appeal, and now you see thirteen days later the decision is rendered."

Jacob Sharp received the news—as he had taken every important step in his struggle for liberty—in a stolid manner and without visible emotion. His wife was much affected by the news. Young George Sharp and Mr. Selmes brought the tidings to Ludlow street jail, and in a quiet manner made known the decision of the General Term. They remained with him until night. Dr. H. P. Loomis called about 4:30 p. m. to visit his patient, and remained a short time in consultation with him. Mr. Sharp is weak, and, according to those who see him daily, a very sick man.

At the District-Attorney's office Mr. Martine and his assistant, De Lancey Nicoll, could not refrain from expressing their satisfaction at the result. "I expected it, I expected it," said Mr. Nicoll. "I had no fear of the result all along. You see, a rich man goes to prison as well as a poor man."

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.**The Places He Will Stop At South and West.**

The completed arrangements for Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland's extended trip South and West were announced on Wednesday as follows:

Leave Washington by Pennsylvania Railroad Friday, September 30, at 10 A. M.
Arrive at Indianapolis Saturday, October 1, at 11 A. M.

Leave Indianapolis Saturday, October 1, at 3 P. M.

Arrive at Terre Haute Saturday, October 1, at 5 1/2 P. M.

Leave Terre Haute Saturday, Oct. 1, at 6 1/2 P. M.

Arrive at St. Louis Saturday, Oct. 1, at 12 o'clock midnight.

Leave St. Louis by Chicago and Alton Railroad Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 11 P. M.

Arrive at Chicago Wednesday, October 5, at 9 A. M.

Leave Chicago by Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, Thursday, October 6, at 10 A. M.

Arrive at Milwaukee Thursday, October 6, at 1 P. M.

Leave Milwaukee Friday, October 7, at 10 A. M.

Arrive at Madison Friday, October 7, at 1 P. M.

Leave Madison by Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Monday, October 10, at 9 A. M.

Arrive at St. Paul Monday, October 10, at 5 1/2 P. M.

Leave St. Paul Tuesday, October 11, at 12 noon.

Arrive at Minneapolis Tuesday, October 11, at 1 P. M.

Leave Minneapolis by Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Tuesday, October 11, at 8 P. M.

Arrive at Omaha Wednesday, October 12, at 11 A. M.

Leave Omaha, by Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 12 noon.

Arrive at St. Joseph Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 5 1/2 P. M.

Leave St. Joseph Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 5 1/2 P. M.

Arrive at Kansas City Wednesday, October 12, at 8 1/2 P. M.

Leave Kansas City by Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad, Thursday, October 13, at 11 P. M.

Arrive at Memphis Friday, October 14, at 6 P. M.

Leave Memphis, by Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Saturday, October 15, at 1 P. M.

Arrive at Nashville, Saturday, October 15, at 11 P. M.

Leave Nashville by Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis and Western Atlantic Railroad Monday, October 17, at 11 A. M.

Arrive at Atlanta Monday October 17, at 11 P. M.

Leave Atlanta Wednesday, October 19, at 12 o'clock midnight.

Arrive at Montgomery Thursday, October 20, at 8 A. M.

Leave Montgomery by Kennesaw and Western North Carolina routes Thursday, October 20, at 1 P. M.

Reach Washington Saturday, October 22, at 6 A. M.

JUDGE WALTON, of Corsicana, Texas, has performed the marriage ceremony for 785 couples during the past eighteen months. His revenue from this source exceeds \$6,000.

A HURRICANE'S FURY.**Great Destruction of Property Along the Rio Grande.**

A hurricane visited Brownville, Texas, and vicinity the other night. The rain accompanying the storm deluged the country for miles. The village of Santa Cruz, opposite Brownville, was submerged for several hours. The Rio Grande rose rapidly and raged like the sea, and the backwater overflowed many miles of fertile country. Hardly a tree is standing near the city, and several hundred acres of valuable sugar cane were blown flat to the earth. The roof of Masonic Hall was carried away. Scanlan's large oil warehouse was demolished. The telegraph wires were prostrated. The damage in Brownville and at Matamoros, Mexico, is estimated at \$1,000,000. In Brownville seventy small houses were blown down and 300 others were unroofed and rendered unfit for occupancy. In Matamoros a dozen houses of the better class and from 150 to 200 small houses were ruined, while from 400 to 500 others were unroofed. In the country on the American side of the river incalculable damage was done. Many heads of cattle and sheep were lost and the crops of cotton, corn and sugar cane were destroyed.

In Matamoros the narrow streets in the storm were torrents. Even in the more central parts of the town the streets were filled with ruins. The school buildings were full of homeless people, and the authorities did all in their power for them. Among the merchants' goods have been generally damaged by water. The suffering in the town and country is severe. At the railroad station several sheds were blown down and the line was reported inundated at several points.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

ONLY \$15,000 is asked for the release of Ramsey and Kerins, the Louisville battery.

ONLY fourteen out of the twenty-four League pitchers have won more games than they have lost.

It is not a settled thing yet as to whether the St. Louis Club will or will not go into the League next season.

CLARKSON, of Chicago, leads the strike-out record of the League pitchers. He has made 190 batsmen fan the air this season.

MANAGER GAFFNEY corroborates the rumor concerning the reported sale of the Washington Club. The team is for sale.

THE Metropolitans have beaten the record by scoring only two runs in four successive games. Three of the games resulted in no runs.

THERE will be a large number of good ball players from the East in California during the coming winter, and some interesting games may be expected.

THE Detroiters have not been driven from the head of the League column since the first week of the season, when they occupied third and second places successively for two days.

PRESIDENT JOHN WARD is reported to have said that the League must recognize the Baseball Brotherhood. If not, an association may be formed of its members in opposition to the League.

UMPIRE MCLEAN, of the International League, mulcted ten of the players at Toronto recently. He fined Faats \$10, McCormack \$5 and eight of the Syracuse players \$5 each for finding fault with his decisions.

THE series between the St. Louis Club and the Detroiters for the world's championship will probably consist of nine games. Two games will probably be played in New York, two in Detroit and two in Chicago, and one each in St. Louis, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

In a recent game at Philadelphia between the Athletics and St. Louis, Latimer, not liking McQuade's umpiring, insultingly asked the umpire if he "was going to do the right thing in the game." McQuade replied that he was, and immediately clapped a heavy line on Latham.

ACCORDING to the records of the National League, Bouthers, of Detroit, leads all batsmen, with a percentage of .448. He has played in 100 games, scored 134 runs and made 212 base hits. Connor leads the New York Club; Darling, Chicago; Nash, Boston; Hines, Washington; Ferguson, Philadelphia; Carroll, Pittsburgh, and Seery, Indianapolis.

"I HAVE umpired for both organizations, and let me tell you the League is away ahead of the Association," said Umpire Daniels. "To begin with, the League has better batters, and its players see and play much finer points. The St. Louis Browns? Yes, they are a wonderful team, but the Detroiters can win from them by virtue of superior batting."

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Won.	Lost.	Won.	Lost.
Detroit.....73	41	Boston.....61	52
Pittsburgh....47	65	New York....61	50
Philadelphia..67	48	Indianapolis..34	82
Chicago.....66	45	Washington..42	71

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Won.	Lost.	Won.	Lost.
St. Louis.....89	34	Athletic.....50	63
Cincinnati....78	52	Brooklyn....56	68
Louisville....72	53	Metropolitan..39	84
Baltimore....70	54	Cleveland....34	89

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Won.	Lost.	Won.	Lost.
Newark.....59	38	Syracuse.....58	39
Rochester....49	52	Hamilton....56	41
Toronto.....43	34	Jersey City..47	49
Buffalo.....42	40	Wilkesbarre..26	74
Scranton....19	53		

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Won.	Lost.	Won.	Lost.
Birmingham..16	53	Memphis.....60	40
Charleston....58	38	New Orleans..62	35

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

THERE were 52,560 more births than deaths in France in 1886.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to build a boulevard from Washington to Mt. Vernon.

A FAILURE to vaccinate is punished at Phoenix, Arizona, by \$300 fine, or six months in jail.

THERE is one bag of coffee in store or in sight for every 120 persons in the United States.

THIRTEEN hundred ex-Union and ex-Confederate soldiers have been holding a reunion at Evansville, Ind.

THE Turkish Government has forbidden the attendance of Moslems upon the mission schools in Palestine.

A PETROLEUM spring which rises to a height of 150 feet has flooded the Balakhan country, near Baku, Russia.

SUNDAY factory labor in Germany is enforced by the sharp competition between employers, and an agitation which will arrest it is likely to set in.

M. D. BALD, United States Attorney for Alaska, died on the steamship Ancon while en route to Seattle. W. T. H's body has been shipped to Washington city.

ENGLAND encourages rifle practice by substantial rewards. At the Wimbledon meeting this year over \$50,000 in cash prizes was distributed among the contestants.

HALF the work of reclaiming the Potomac flats at Washington is now done, and 375 acres have been evolved for the magnificent new park that the flats are to furnish.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

FOUR plays by American authors are running in New York.

MARIE EXGLE is to have \$20,000 for singing in American cities this winter.

EDWIN BOOTH and Lawrence Barrett charge \$2.50 a seat at their performances.

MRS. LANGTRY opened her season in the metropolis with a new play, "As in a Looking Glass."

A NEW American opera, based on Frank R. Stockton's little story of "The Lady or the Tiger," is to be produced in New York city.

BOUCICAULT has brought out a new play, "Phryne," in San Francisco. It is said to bear a striking resemblance to "Leda Astray."

MISS HELEN DAUVRAY, the well-known American star, has been compelled, by severe illness, to cancel all engagements for this season.

THE management of the Grand Opera-house in Pittsburgh have introduced an innovation in the shape of a pair of opera glasses fastened with a gilt chain to every parquet chair.

MRS. JAMES BROWN POTTER will open in Civil War at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, on the 31st of October. Mr. George F. Sims, the English playwright, is reconstructing the fourth act.

TOM KARL, the tenor, H. C. Barnabee and W. H. MacDonald, who seceded last spring from the Boston Ideal Opera Company, have organized a company of their own, which will be known as the Bostonians.

THE Philadelphia singer introduced abroad as Mlle. Nikita, and the heroine of a wonderful story of capture by Indians, has not proved a great success. English and Parisian papers speak of her as a fair singer.

HENRY ALEXANDER COOPER, formerly a circus giant, but now a saloonkeeper in Buffalo, is the tallest man in the United States. He is eight feet two inches in height and weighs 350 pounds. His hand is thirteen inches and his foot seventeen inches long. He does not find it necessary to employ a "bouncer" in his saloon.

A NEW swindling scheme is the "spectacle racket." Two men take in the country towns, one styling himself the partner of some well-known city oculist. They tell the people that they need glasses, and examine the eyes and "prescribe" a pair of spectacles for \$2. The glasses are worth less than twenty-five cents.

GEN. JAMES LONGSTREET lives in a quiet farm house on the summit of a mountain ridge in North Georgia. A friend who has just been paying him a visit says that his hair is silver, his whiskers are snow, his giant figure somewhat bent, but his eagle eyes still flash with the old-time fire, and years have only deepened the strong lines in his face.

CAPT. TOM BRABSON, a well-known farmer living on the French Broad River, near Boyd's Creek, Tenn., is the owner of a white mule 45 years of age. The venerable beast was kept in the harness until two years ago, when he was retired on a pension. He has been in possession of the mule for thirty-seven years, and can vouch for his age.

A LINCOLN (Neb.) young girl was dressing in her room during a thunderstorm when her pug dog ran in. She clasped it to her bosom and a flash of lightning instantly killed it. She was horrified to find that an image of her dog had been photographed on her bosom. There seems to be no way of removing the picture, which gives every shade, color, and wrinkle of the canine form.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.			
Beef, good to prime.....	37		
Calves, com'n to prime.....	5 1/2	@	7 1/2
Sheep.....	4	@	4 1/2
Lambs.....	6 1/2	@	4 1/2
Hogs—Live.....	5	@	5 1/2
Dressed.....	7 1/2	@	7 1/2
Flour—Ex. St., good to fancy 4 30	@	4 35	
West, good to choice 3 90	@	4 30	
Wheat—No. 2 Red.....	79 1/2	@	80
Rye—State.....	56	@	58
Barley—State.....	40	@	75
Corn—Ungraded Mixed.....	50 1/2	@	51 1/2
Oats—White State.....	33 1/2	@	34
Mixed Western.....	32	@	35
Hay—Med. to prime.....	80	@	85
Straw—No. 1, Rye.....	60	@	70
Lard—City Steam.....	6 78	@	6 81
Butter—State Creamery.....	21	@	24
Dairy.....	21	@	23
West. Im. Creamery.....	13	@	17 1/2
Factory.....	10 1/2	@	11 1/2
Cheese—State Factory.....	8	@	9 1/2
Skims.....	8 1/2	@	11
Western.....	19 1/2	@	20
Eggs—State and Penn.....	19 1/2	@	20

BUFFALO.			
Steers—Western.....	3 50	@	4 00
Sheep—Good to Choice.....	4 25	@	4 45
Lambs—Western.....	6 00	@	6 30
Hogs—Good to Choice Yorks 5 45	@	5 55	
Flour Family.....	4 75	@	5 15
Wheat—No. 1.....	82 1/2	@	83 1/2
Corn—No. 2, Mixed.....	48 1/2	@	48 1/2
Oats—No. 2, Mixed.....	29 1/2	@	30
Barley—State.....	64	@	65

BOSTON.			
Beef—Good to choice.....	8	@	14
Hogs—Live.....	5 1/2	@	6
Northern Dressed.....	6 1/2	@	7 1/2
Pork—Ex. Prime, per bbl.....	17 00	@	17 50
Flour—Spring Wheat pat's.....	4 75	@	4 90
Corn—High Mixed.....	50 1/2	@	51 1/2